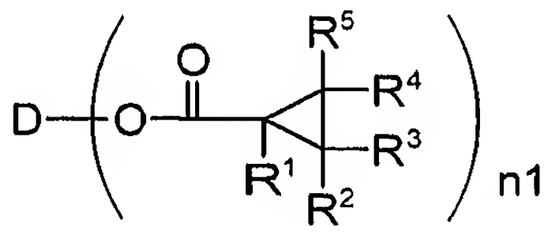
CLAIMS

1. An optically anisotropic material comprising at least one discotic compound having a cyclopropylcarbonyl group.

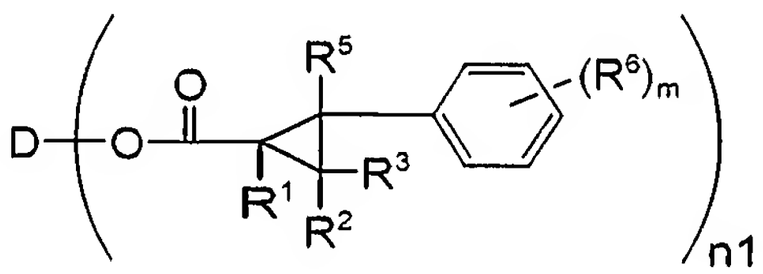
2. The optically anisotropic material of claim 1, wherein said discotic compound having a cyclopropylcarbonyl group is a compound represented by the following formula (I):



(I)

wherein D represents a discotic core, n1 represents an integer of 3 to 20, and R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent and may combine with each other to form a ring.

3. The optically anisotropic material of claim 2, wherein said compound represented by formula (I) is a compound represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein D represents a discotic core, n1 represents an integer of 3 to 20, R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^5 each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent and may combine with each other to form a ring, m represents an integer of 1 to 5, R^6 represents a substituent, and when multiple R^6s are present, these may be the same or different or may combine with each other to form a ring.

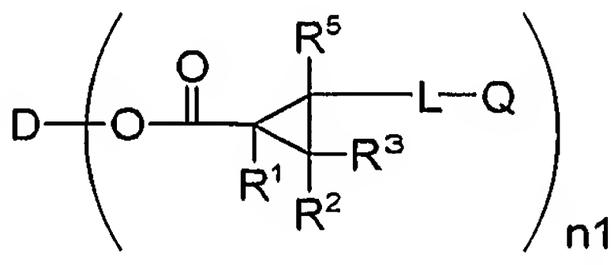
4. The optically anisotropic material of claim 3, wherein R^6 is a halogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group,

a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted acyloxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyloxy group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxycarbonyloxy group.

5. The optically anisotropic material of any one of claims 2 to 4, wherein R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^5 each is a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a cyano group, an alkoxycarbonyl group or a halogen atom.

6. The optically anisotropic material of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said discotic compound having a cyclopropylcarbonyl group is a discotic liquid crystal.

7. The optically anisotropic material of claim 6, wherein said discotic compound having a cyclopropylcarbonyl group is a discotic compound having a polymerizable group, represented by the following formula (III), said polymerizable group is polymerized in the state of the disc plane of said discotic compound being aligned, and this alignment is fixed by the polymerization:



(III)

wherein D represents a discotic core, n1 represents an integer of 3 to 20, R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^5 each represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent and may combine with each other to form a ring, L represents a divalent linking group selected from an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, a carbonyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkylene group, a substituted or unsubstituted

arylene group and a combination thereof, and Q represents a polymerizable group.

8. The optically anisotropic material of claim 7, wherein Q is an epoxy group or an ethylenically unsaturated group.

9. The optically anisotropic material of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein said discotic core is triphenylene.

10. The optically anisotropic material of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the alignment of said discotic compound having a cyclopropylcarbonyl group is forming a discotic nematic phase.

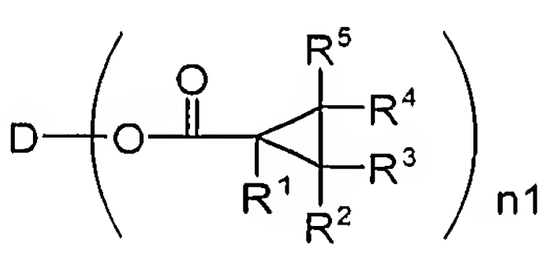
11. An optically anisotropic film formed from the optically anisotropic material of any one of claims 1 to 10.

12. An optical compensatory sheet comprising a transparent support and an optically anisotropic layer formed from the optically anisotropic material of any one of claims 1 to 10.

13. A liquid crystal display device comprising the optically anisotropic material of any one of claims 1 to 10.

14. The liquid crystal display device of claim 11, which comprises an optically anisotropic layer formed from the optically anisotropic material.

15. A triphenylene compound represented by the following formula (IV):



(IV)

wherein D represents a triphenylene group, n1 represents an integer of 3 to 6, and R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4 and R^5 each represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted or

unsubstituted alkoxy group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyloxy group having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms, or a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxycarbonyl group having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms.

16. The triphenylene compound of claim 15, wherein when R^4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted alkoxy group having from 3 to 20 carbon atoms, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms or a substituted or unsubstituted aryloxy group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms and at the same time, R^4 has a substituent, a polymerizable group is present at the terminal of said substituent.

17. The triphenylene compound of claim 15, wherein when R^4 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group having from 6 to 20 carbon atoms and at the same time, R^4 has a substituent, a polymerizable group is present at the terminal of said substituent.

18. The triphenylene compound of claim 16 or 17, wherein said polymerizable group is an epoxy group or an ethylenically unsaturated group.